

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:08 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020

From: caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com [mailto:caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 3:30 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020

Dear Stephanie,

- I-211-001** | I am a citizen who is concerned about whether or not the CAPX2020 project makes sense. I do not want to see tax dollars used to support this project for the following reasons:
- I-211-002** | **Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers** without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants;
- I-211-003** | **Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020** ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project
- I-211-004** | The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.
- I-211-005** | Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

Please consider my families concerns when discussing this project!

Kind Regards,
Caroline, Michael, Inga and Vladimir Lexa

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I-211-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-211-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF, visual resources, socioeconomic issues including property values, rare species, and agricultural resources will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-211-004

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Publicly available at http://www.draftspain.org/water/papers/Submitted_Conferences

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:13 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020 LaCrosse Project

From: lonnieandgayle@gmail.com [mailto:lonnieandgayle@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 5:19 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020 LaCrosse Project

I-212-001 Taxpayers should not have to finance any portion of the the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service which will happen if it's not funded by USDA/RUS & it will also make it more difficult to move forward. Please represent the taxpayers in this matter, and keep our best interest a priority.

Lonnie and Gayle Malwitz

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:14 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Public comment - CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project
Importance: High

From: John & Kari Tonsager [mailto:jktonsager@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 6:00 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: btmurphy@frontiernet.net
Subject: Public comment - CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project
Importance: High

Stephanie-

In regards to the proposed line in Dakota and Goodhue County, specifically Sec 32 in Hampton Twp (owned by Bernard Murphy Farms LP) and Sec 26 and 36 Goodhue County, Holden Twp. (same ownership):

Sec 32 in Hampton: The best use for the railroad bed would be the future extension of the rail from Randolph north. The power line would limit this. Also, there is a problem with this line in Sec 29 where line would go across farm with irrigator.

Sec 36 in Holden Twp: In the future we are looking at putting an irrigator on this land. Also, plan to have cow/calf operation.

Any questions, please call Brian Murphy 952.292.3035 or 952.469.1261. We would be in support of the one of the easterly routes.

Brian P. Murphy

I-213-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Kessler, Ellen

From: cathyjo55@aol.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2009 2:41 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comments on CAPX2020 Rochester project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Stephanie Strength,

I hope it's not too late for this. The rural coop newsletter said that we had until July 27th to make comments.

My husband and I live at 5009 Viola Road NE, which is just west of County 11 and just south of County 2

We and are opposed to route B46, which will run just west of our property. We have talked to a number of our neighbors and feel that they are opposed to this too. We are opposed because:

1. We feel it is too close to a lot of homes that are currently along this section line.

I-214-001 2. We have heard that a power line of this size this near to homes results in a devaluation of the properties.

I-214-002 3. We have heard that being this close to this large voltage is a concern for both health and for problems in homes, barns and businesses with stray voltage that the property owner then has to deal with.

I-214-005 4. It degrades the country look of the area.

I-214-003 5. It is right next to the new Quest DSL box which was recently installed on our property and we are concerned that this would interfere with the phone and internet services.

I-214-004 We would prefer route B120, as this seems to go behind a lot of the properties in the area and so keeps the line farther away from the homes. Even this route though seems very close to homes.

Otherwise, if this power line is not a problem near homes, then we don't understand why it doesn't go down the B47 route, since this is County 11 and would probably be the easiest road to use to service the line.

Sincerely yours,

Mike and Cathy Nordstrom

I-214-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-214-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to stray voltage will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-214-003

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-214-004

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-214-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:12 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: No Need For Capx2020 - Expansion of Dirty Coal Is Not Wanted

-----Original Message-----

From: rdo_mn@yahoo.com [mailto:rdo_mn@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 4:58 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: No Need For Capx2020 - Expansion of Dirty Coal Is Not Wanted

Key Concerns:

- I-215-001** 1. There is no need for high voltage lines if we can tap into community based, local sources of electricity.
2. The USDA needs to make a decision about the public interest for the citizens of Minnesota and not just rubber-stamp CapX2020. The power companies are already well represented.
- I-215-002** 3. Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project;
- I-215-003** 4. The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.
- I-215-004** 4. The La Crosse Project should be considered with other CapX2020 power lines which create the potential for transmission of coal power east from the Dakotas to load centers east of Minnesota. The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to the La Crosse line result in additional adverse impacts of the project.
- I-215-005** 5. Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants.
- I-215-006** 6. Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

Regards,
Robert Olson
Warsaw Township Tax Payer, Rate Payer, Voter, Hunter
Goodhue County

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I-215-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which will be available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-215-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-215-001.

I-215-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF, visual resources, socioeconomic issues including property values, rare species, and agricultural resources will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-215-004

Your comment has been noted. Cumulative Impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their

electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

I-215-005

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-215-006

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Hampton–Rochester–La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Improvement Project Scoping Report
February 2010

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020

-----Original Message-----

From: rozlac@acegroup.cc [mailto:rozlac@acegroup.cc]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:54 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Ms. Strength,

With regard to the CapX2020 La Crosse Project, I have read the letter from Sharon Erickson Ropes to you dated July 23, 2009. Please count me among those who are in full agreement with the concerns and requests that Ms. Erickson Ropes has outlined. To that I would add that the future of energy production and consumption in this country is local. It is a future that is already taking root and is gaining momentum every day. Projects that promote continued reliance on centralization of production and/or long distance transmission of electrical power are sadly out of step with new realities and will soon become obsolete.

If CapX202 is allowed to move forward, it will come at an extraordinary yet totally unnecessary cost in both dollars and environmental degradation and the new towers and transmission lines (wherever they are constructed) will stand in lasting, mute testimony to a tragically flawed view of the future that favors the narrow interests of the utility companies over the real needs of consumers. Accordingly, I respectfully request that USDA/RUC refuse to lend its support to the CapX2020 La Crosse Project by choosing a "no-build" option.

Sincerely,

Jim Rozovics
4637 Turkey Valley Lane
La Crescent, MN

I-217-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-217-002

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Lilley, Bliss
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 10:11 AM
To: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020
Attachments: shea.pdf

From: Schultz, Dawn R [mailto:dawn.schultz@xcelenergy.com]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 7:51 AM
To: bshea1956@yahoo.com
Cc: stephanie.strength@usda.gov; Lilley, Bliss
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Mr. Shea,

Thank you for providing your feedback and suggestions regarding the routing of the CapX2020 Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse line. Your comments are being provided via this e-mail to the USDA Rural Utilities Service (Stephanie Strength) for inclusion in their federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

We do have 3908 Dawn Haven Court NE in our database, but under a different name. I'm wondering if there was a change of ownership since our mailing lists were first compiled. I apologize that you hadn't been getting the mailings. You are now entered into our database for future correspondence. Please do encourage your neighbors to contact us with their information, and we will gladly add them as well. They can provide comments to us at any time, however for comments to be included in the federal EIS, they must be received by tomorrow, July 25. Comments can also be sent directly to Stephanie Strength; her e-mail is included and her phone number is 202-720-0468.

Please let me know if there's anything else I can help you with.

Dawn Schultz
Technician, Siting & Land Rights - North
Xcel Energy
CapX2020
800-238-7968

William Shea 507-288/5690 bshea1956@yahoo.com
3908 Dawn Haven Court Ne
Rochester MN 55906

Key Issues: That there re better alternatives. There are two existing high power lines with right of way both going north from Co Road 9 (Olmsted). The one routed north and south on Co Road 11 is the worst route to take because of the higher density of residential housing. But then is altered to not only cut through a recreational and wildlife sanctuary but also near more residential housing. The other would be north on 50th Ave impacting much less residential housing of which have chose to build near the existing high powerlines recently. From the supplied map with Red (proposed existing) and Blue (proposed alternates), it appears the blue route just west of the 50th ave Red route is the best. It impacts very little residential housing and less farmland. Ppportunity: 300 yards to the east on Dawn Haven Ct NE. We moved here for the aesthetic value and

I-218-001

I-218-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-218-003

have 2 neighbors who co-run the land for farming crops. Opinion: The proposed Co 11 north goes right by residential housing, then turns east into recreational land near Silver Creek reservoir. It then turns north again through prime wildlife management land and then prime farmland to the north. It makes little sense to disturb this when a blue proposed line west of 50th Ave or the 50th Avenue route is a far better alternative with much less impact. If it cost more to build this route, maybe the buyer who receives the electricity should bear the cost. It is obviously not for us. But then we have no idea who is getting the energy. Additional information needed: All of it. A land owner north of us brought it to our attention 14 days after the original deadline. Coincidentally 2 neighbors of ours on Dawn Haven Court Nc who are heirs to the farmland directly to the west and impacted by this project knew nothing about this either. 7/23/2009 8:05:00 PM

I-218-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-218-003

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

From the supplied map with Red (proposed existing) and blue (proposed alternates), it appears the blue route just west of the 50th Av. Red route is the best. It impacts very little residential housing and less farmland.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

300 yds. to the east on Dawn Haven Ct. We moved here for the aesthetic value and have 2 neighbors who co-run the land for farming crops.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

The proposed Cor. 11 north goes right by residential housing, then turns east into recreational land near Silver Creek reservoir. It then turns north again through prime wildlife management land and then prime farmland to the north. It makes little sense to disturb this when a blue proposed line west of 50th Av. (or 50th Av.) is a far better alternative with much less impact. If it cost more, maybe the buyer who receives the electricity should bear the cost. It is obviously not for us. But then we have no idea who is getting it!

Collins, Carly

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:41 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: myletter.pdf - Adobe Reader
Attachments: myletter.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: skubes@co.rice.mn.us [mailto:skubes@co.rice.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2009 9:26 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: myletter.pdf - Adobe Reader

I-220-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded you comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

WHAT IS YOUR IMPACT?

Hello. My name is Sonja Kubes, and we live in Lanesburgh Township in section 14. I want to start by saying that I'm disgusted that this entire CAPX2020 project is even still up for debate. I have yet to meet one single person who is in favor of this ridiculous project. This project has upset the entire foundation in this community. I don't care what route you are on...I'm sorry that the route issue is even up for debate. I am truly hoping that we can win the "big battle" and put an end to the CAPX2020 project all together, but if that is not on the table for debate, then I have to try and win the little battle by telling you a little bit about what my ranch offers the community.

We own and operate Sand Creek Ranch. It is a quarter horse and cattle performance/breeding stable and arena. Our ranch is located on your **alternate** route in LeSueur County on County Road 164 (141st Ave.) outside of New Prague, MN. The power lines may go right down our 12 acre hay field, the only hay field we desperately need to maintain a reasonable life. It will be within close proximity to our farm yard, several metal pole sheds, and our pastures. However, as our business grows, we have plans to build an indoor arena, an additional stall barn for horse/cattle competitors and vendors. A ROW power line taking over half our hay field would greatly impact our livelihoods by preventing us from growing our business. Because of the issue that machinery cannot be safely operated around these lines, we would lose a lot of hay. This hay feeds our livestock.

If we can't operate our machinery safely, we lose money. We will have to spend money to buy a lot of hay; this directly impacts our financial bottom line. Besides the fact that the value of the property would decrease astronomically. This is a livestock ranch, and should remain as one with the numerous nice farm buildings, pastures, and home.

For us to run a successful business we NEED our hay that is harvested from that field. We harvest approximately 3000+ bales of good grass hay from that field every year. We can support our entire herd of cattle and all the performance horses from this field. We do not need to buy any outside hay....which we all know is a very big expense. We will lose this self-sufficiency if we lose any part of our hay field and pasture land.

If the power system goes through our hay field, our business will be grossly

negatively impacted. We will be in peril. We have spent many years growing our business. We expect to spend many more years growing our business. This land is our livelihood and a lifestyle we choose.

We moved here 30 years ago. We moved to LeSueur County, an Agri-County. We moved out of Scott County which was already becoming unfriendly to Agri-Business. LeSueur County is still, and will continue for many years to be, primarily an Agri-County. All around us are families with both small and large-sized Agri interests. There are numerous horse entities, dairy farms, and crop farmers.

The impact on our ranch, livestock and family is devastating to the success of our business and the health of our family and animals. We average between 20-30 horses and 20-30 head of cattle on the ranch. Training, boarding and breeding horses plus sponsoring rodeos, cutting and team roping jackpots are our livelihood, as well as our lifestyle. We have three children who are growing up with horses and the wonderful ranching lifestyle that includes family and friends.

We are active supporters of LeSueur County 4-H and MN High School Rodeo by providing numerous youth training clinics and lessons for their benefit. We do NOT want to lose this way of life for them or us. If the power line goes through our property, we will not be able to keep things as they are for them, the youth, or our customers.

Surrounding the farm yard, there are 25+ acres of cattle/horse pastures that are enclosed with 4-strand hot wire fencing with mostly steel fence posts, pastures surrounded by pipe fencing, and metal gates, besides the numerous automatic waterers. If waterers are subject to any type of electro magnetic field or stray voltage, the livestock will not drink because of their high sensitivity to electric currents. Horses and cattle MUST have constant water to survive because without water availability, they will not eat. The ground on the ranch is a high mix of peat with some clay. Peat ground holds more moisture (hence high hay production we have), but will also be a conduit for the electro magnetic field from the power lines.

This is unacceptable for maintaining a livestock ranch.

If we need to replace the 25+ acres of hot wire and steel pipe fencing, the cost

is prohibitive. And, how do we water this much livestock every day with a sufficient amount of water?? We would be forced to stop using the automatic metal waterers and use rubber tubs with no way to transport the water to these tubs that the livestock requires on a daily basis. What do we do in the winter to keep the tubs from freezing?? Will we have to spread miles of extension cords to power these tank heaters hoping that there is no electric feed-back from the power lines...and don't forget the astronomical electric bill costs.

In closing, we are asking your company to please, please hear our concerns and objections to placing the power lines in our neighborhood; the work and planning was done for good reason for the primary route. We are NOT your primary route for business economical reasons; the extreme added costs to run the power lines on the alternate route is not good business for you, or us. Those high added costs will, we're sure, be passed on to taxpayers who are already financially stressed in these horrible economical times.

Please, preserve our ranch for our children, the youth in our community and our agri-business lifestyle.

Please say "NO" to Capx2020!

Sincerely,

Sonja Kubes

Skubcs@rice.co.mn.us

Sanderkranch@bevcomm.net

952-758-2099

Kessler, Ellen

From: w2938f-msg11@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2009 9:14 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comment on public Scoping meeting: Hampton-Rochester-Lacrosse

I attended the Meeting June 18, 2009 at St. Charles Mn.

As per the Comment form:

Issues considered important:

- Visual, Proximity to residences, Land use, Radio-TV interference
- Project need
- Health and safety
 - I have recently seen an article from Europe proving the effects on cattle. The cattle and deer oriented per the power line and not according to normal earth magnetic field.

Key issues that should be addressed as impacts of project.

- I-221-001** - The effect of construction and the use of heavy equipment is an ongoing effect for a number (probably 5) years. One of the issues is ground subsoil compaction affecting plant growth.
- I-221-002** - The route should be along already established corridors for public facilities. The state guidelines establish this as a goal.
 - Access is already established and minimum impact is made on the community.
 - Minimum disturbance is made to land and peoples property
 - Property valuations already reflect this intrusion

Property owned in proposed corridor:

- Agricultural, Residential

Special uses or circumstances on property that should be considered.

- The proposed corridor runs on top of the highest ground in area.
 - This is prime positioning for future wind turbines. The line takes the only route that would be viable for turbines on this property. On adjoining property it would reduce the number of turbines for future use.

Project description, purpose, and need.

- I-221-003** - The claimed need was described, however
 - I learned from an outside source that recent electric use data was not used in the proposal. The recent data apparently does not support the need due to a drop in electric use.
 - Recent articles in IEEE (professional society) indicate that that there may be ways to maximize the use of existing transmission lines. This may make the need of the line a question.

Wayne Theel
7943 Collegeview Rd E

I-221-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-221-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-221-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Eyota, Mn 55934

Kessler, Ellen

From: Duane Tiede [dctiede@ameritech.net]
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2009 10:17 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comments on Proposed CapX 2020 345 kva Power Line
Attachments: CapX2020 Comment Form Duane Tiede.pdf

Stephanie,

Attached are my comments on the proposed 345kva power transmission line from Hampton Minnesota to La Crosse, Wisconsin. I have received general information on this project for the past several years but very recent information with the latest proposed routing directly impacts my farm as the proposed line runs adjacent to my house, garage, machine shed and farm drive and is the only alternative route shown for the 2.5 miles.

Please consider the attached comments in your environmental review. I will mail a hard copy also.

Thank you for your consideration.

Duane Tiede
(630) 640-8212
dctiede@ameritech.net<<mailto:dctiede@ameritech.net>>

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? None

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Location of other power lines on the property. There is an existing high power transmission line crossing this property that will be crossed with this new proposed line.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☒ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-222-001

My farm is located at 46998 170th Ave. Zumbrota, MN 55992 which is a few miles southwest of Zumbrota, MN. The proposed 345kva power line siting is directly across my farm with the power line less than 200 ft from the house. It also runs parallel and directly adjacent to the farm drive and will be less than 100 ft. from the garage and machine shed. The farmhouse and land are rented now but I am very concerned that the proposed power line routing will make the house uninhabitable and un-rentable.

The poles through the agricultural land will also create more obstacles for the land operator. The proposed routing will require easement on over 13 acres of tillable land on a farm that only has 130 acres of cropland.

I-222-002

Throughout the entire almost 150 miles of proposed power line routing there are two or more alternative routes shown except for about 2.5 miles that includes my farm. Why is there not an alternative routing for this area? It is my understanding that State codes require alternate routes be identified.

I-222-003

There is another residential site less than 1/2 mile west of my farm where the proposed line runs very close to the house also. It seems that an alternative routing on my south property line or further south would alleviate all of these problems

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-222-004

The most sensitive resources in the Project are the people living near the power line. The potential danger from EMF radiation and the safety concern with power lines subject to failure from ice storms in Southern Minnesota's climate make it very unsafe to locate a high voltage power line that close to residential housing and other buildings and driveways.

The second major issue is the carbon produced by the coal fired plant and the carbon generated during the building of the power line.

I-222-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, potential socioeconomic impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-222-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-222-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-222-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-222-005
I-222-006

The project is explained well in the information distributed. However, I question the conclusion that the best alternative is the power line proposed. Per the study, since the primary need areas are Rochester and La Crosse, why not build natural gas fired generating capability in those areas and eliminate all the cost and environmental issues associated with a coal fired power source from the Twin Cities transmitting power to Rochester and La Crosse? The carbon emissions from a natural gas plant would be less than half from the coal plant and our country has over a 100 year supply of natural gas. In addition, all the environmental impact of the proposed power lines would be eliminated. A natural gas plant could be built in much less calendar time than required for the power line.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Duane Tiede

Representing (Optional): Impacted Landowner

Mailing Address: 6s521 Sussex Rd.

City: Naperville **State:** IL **Zip Code:** 60540

Daytime Phone (Optional): (630) 640 -8212

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-222-005

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-222-006

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO PARTICIPATE.

Please submit comments by the following means:

- Leave this form at the public meeting.
- Mail the form or a letter to the address below.
- Submit comments electronically at www.capx2020.com/Projects/project_tc-roch-lac.html.

Please mail this form or electronically submit your comments by June 29, 2009.

FOLD HERE



**1400 Independence Ave. SW, MAIL STOP 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571**

**Stephanie A. Strength
1400 Independence Ave. SW, MAIL STOP 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571**

TAPE HERE (DO NOT STAPLE)

Kessler, Ellen

From: emestinatroielli@hotmail.com
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2009 9:09 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: opposing capx2020

I-223-001

1. Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project;

I-223-002

2. The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.

Lauren found her dream laptop. Find the PC that's right for you.<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/choosepc/?ocid=ftp_val_wl_290>

I-223-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-223-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF, visual resources, socioeconomic issues including property values, rare species, and agricultural resources will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Jessica Trost [jessica_trost@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 10:43 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Hamp-Roch-Lac 345kV Project Public Scoping Comment Form
Attachments: USDA Comment Form.docx

Dear Ms. Strength,

I have taken the time to answer the questions on the public scoping comment form for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV Transmission Project. I have included my answers to the questions in this email and also attached a Word document containing my answers.

Thank you for considering the public comments. This is an issue that will affect many Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Jessica Trost

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meetings:

Which meeting did you attend: Family member attended meeting in Cannon Falls, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

x Project Purpose and Need:

o The need for energy has decreased in MN in the last three years.

x Visual/Aesthetic resources:

o Have you seen these lines?! They're huge and they cut through beautiful landscapes.

x Proximity to residences

x Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

o These lines are going to go through many Minnesota farms.

x Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

x Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

o Many trees will be cleared in the right of way of the lines!

x Historic and cultural sites

- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ And GPS on farm equipment
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ EMF, danger of electric shocks under the lines!
- ☒ Other: property values

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-224-005 | This will be a huge construction project that will destroy a lot of land in Minnesota. These lines do not seem to be a sensible solution to the growing energy need, especially since energy use has decreased in the last three years. The coal plants that are supposed to be built are an outdated form of energy production. Let's make this project more green by finding solutions that create less pollution, destroy less of our land and agricultural resources, and are closer to the area of need.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture
- ☒ Residential
- ☐ Conservation Easement
- ☐ Commercial
- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Other:

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-224-001 | Our farm is located in Holden Township. We produce feed and raise livestock. These lines would disrupt the agriculture in this area and could pose dangers to the livestock and farmers. Wooded areas would need to be cleared, which would disrupt hunting—another important activity for my family. Massive transmission lines would spoil the pristine beauty of this rural agricultural community.

I-224-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, etc.) in the Project area and why?

I-224-002

Natural and biological resources definitely need to be considered. Vast areas of forest need to be cleared for such lines creating smaller patches of woods that do not meet the habitat needs of all species. Many efforts are in place to preserve and protect the Big Woods in this area and power lines should not be an exception. I am also concerned about the effect EMF from the power lines can have on plant and animal species as well as residents in the area. Farmland is also a resource that is becoming more valuable every day. We cannot afford to compromise our excellent farmland in this area to make way for transmission lines.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-224-003

NO. I had the impression that the project was being carried out when it was actually still in the approval phase. I don't fully understand the purpose of such massive lines that lose energy as they transfer it. Nor do I understand why we need such massive lines running across the entire state. I have been informed from other sources that the assessment of need didn't include the past three years, when energy use has actually decreased. I have also been informed that very little of the energy is slated for use in Minnesota. This project, according to information I had to collect with my own research efforts, will not be benefitting Minnesotans—it will just be an eyesore that destroys our landscape and resources and cause great resentment. Other (greener) options need to be considered and Minnesotans deserve to get the truth and whole story behind the lines.

I-224-004

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jessica Trost

Mailing Address: 3149 County 30 Blvd.

City: Kenyon

State: MN

Zip: 55946

I-224-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-224-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-224-004

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-224-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meetings:

Which meeting did you attend: Family member attended meeting in Cannon Falls, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need:
 - The need for energy has decreased in MN in the last three years.
- ☒ Visual/Aesthetic resources:
 - Have you seen these lines?! They're huge and they cut through beautiful landscapes.
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
 - These lines are going to go through many Minnesota farms.
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
 - Many trees will be cleared in the right of way of the lines!
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
 - And GPS on farm equipment
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
 - EMF, danger of electric shocks under the lines!
- ☒ **Other:** property values

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

This will be a huge construction project that will destroy a lot of land in Minnesota. These lines do not seem to be a sensible solution to the growing energy need, especially since energy use has decreased in the last three years. The coal plants that are supposed to be built are an outdated form of energy production. Let's make this project more *green* by finding solutions that create less pollution, destroy less of our land and agricultural resources, and are closer to the area of need.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture
- ☒ Residential
- ☐ Conservation Easement
- ☐ Commercial
- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Other:

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Our farm is located in Holden Township. We produce feed and raise livestock. These lines would disrupt the agriculture in this area and could pose dangers to the livestock and farmers. Wooded areas would need to be cleared, which would disrupt hunting—another important activity for my family. Massive transmission lines would spoil the pristine beauty of this rural agricultural community.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, etc.) in the Project area and why?

Natural and biological resources definitely need to be considered. Vast areas of forest need to be cleared for such lines creating smaller patches of woods that do not meet the habitat needs of all species. Many efforts are in place to preserve and protect the Big Woods in this area and power lines should not be an exception. I am also concerned about the effect EMF from the power lines can have on plant and animal species as well as residents in the area. Farmland is also a resource that is becoming more valuable every day. We cannot afford to compromise our excellent farmland in this area to make way for transmission lines.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

NO. I had the impression that the project was being carried out when it was actually still in the approval phase. I don't fully understand the purpose of such massive lines that lose energy as they transfer it. Nor do I understand why we need such massive lines running across the entire state. I have been informed from other sources that the assessment of need didn't include the past three years, when energy use has actually decreased. I have also been informed that very little of the energy is slated for use in Minnesota. This project, according to information I had to collect with my own research efforts, will not be benefitting Minnesotans—it will just be an eyesore that destroys our landscape and resources and cause great resentment. Other (greener) options need to be considered and Minnesotans deserve to get the truth and whole story behind the lines.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jessica Trost

Mailing Address: 3149 County 30 Blvd.

City: Kenyon

State: MN

Zip: 55946

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:14 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020 High Voltage Transmission Project

From: linda@archdirect.com [mailto:linda@archdirect.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 9:49 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020 High Voltage Transmission Project

Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
1400 Independence Ave. SW Rm. #2244
Washington DC 20250-1571

Dear Ms. Strength,
As a landowner in Eureka Township, inheriting land from Norwegian immigrant ancestors, I am deeply concerned about preservation of environment passed on to me. Our parcel is presently rented to organic farmers and is becoming very productive. We are near a lake which is habitat for many endangered species and many more not endangered.

I-225-001

I have followed with interest the effort of many neighbors to halt the project to build a high voltage power line close to our land and participated to a limited extent. I feel that the effort to stop this project is in the best interest of our land, which is close to the Twin Cities and provides food for the area, clean air, and recreational and many other uses which could be harmed by the construction of high voltage lines which incidentally do not seem to be really needed if local generation, local transmission and conservation practices are employed.

Thank you for your consideration and careful attention to my concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Turpening
I urge you to examine this project very closely and

I-225-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Kessler, Ellen

From: vaughn.gail@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:07 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: jeremychipps@gmail.com
Subject: no to CAPX2020 please

To: Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD

Dear Ms Strength,

I am hoping you will be willing to refuse to allow the CAPX2020 project to get taxpayer-funded money in order to move forward.

This project is just a dinosaur waiting to inflict as much damage as it can in its waning days, to support an energy solution that is headed in an obsolete direction.

While the 'need' for this huge outlay of money, in order to build enormous new transmission systems, has not been proven, what HAS been proven is that it will harm our beautiful land and wildlife even more. And it is also a guarantee that those moneys, if used for this project, will not be used instead on new alternative sources of renewable energy, and energy conservation.

It would just be so great if someone exercised some common sense and said 'NO', this is not a good use of anyone's enormous amounts of money.

I am hoping your organization will say NO.
Thank you very much.

Gail Vaughn
61033 County Road C
Ferryville WI 54628

(right next to that beautiful Mississippi river, and just down the road from Dairyland Power)

I-226-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-226-001

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 12:43 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx2020 power transmission line

From: charles.weerts@gmail.com [mailto:charles.weerts@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2009 3:18 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx2020 power transmission line

Ms Strength,

This email is in reference to the CAPX2020 power line proposed to run through our area. We live in Rice Co. at the Sky harbor airpark (airport) near Webster, MN. There is a proposed alternate route to run this huge transmission line very near the airport which is a serious hazard to aircraft landing and taking off at the airport. Please help to keep this transmission line from becoming a hazard to pilots using the airport.

Charles & Delrae Weerts
4419 Canton Court
Webster, MN 55088

I-227-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: capx2020 project

From: t7n28@acegroup.cc [mailto:t7n28@acegroup.cc]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:21 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: capx2020 project

To Stephanie Strengthth:

I-228-006 | This e-mail is in concern to the proposed capx2020 project. We find it quite disturbing to hear that capx2020 is asking the usda to help contribute some 47 million to this project. If this is a project brought on by a group of utilities, why is it the taxpayers responsibility to fund the project. Then we can pay twice. Once through our taxes and then monthly with our increased electric bill. This seems absolutely WRONG.

Why is this project being pushed to move along so quickly? We read daily on how people have been coming up with better ideas on how to conserve and produce power in smarter ways. Lets check this out before we begin destroying our landscape with power lines running all across our country. To run massive power lines from out west to our cities to the east seems like old technology. Coal is a polluting source of power and wind energy seems more of a wishfull idea that still has endless holes in it. Maybe these e-mails are falling on deaf ears and our federal government already has plans to control the utilities of our country. They have already moved into the auto industry, finance industry, airline industry and now are working on the health industry. Hopefully we are somewhat still the democratic country we fought to become years ago. We hope these e-mails and letters are being read and some our thoughts are being heard.

I-228-007 | We need to consult with experts who don't share an interest in this capx project. The need or this project seems to be driven by the utilities themselves. I guess I can understand that a dairy farmer would not tell anyone NOT to drink milk, being that is what produces his income. Electrical utilities have to operate with the same mind set. To get these lines in place would definitely keep these companies operating and generating large amounts of profit for years to come.

I-228-001 | Why are we not exploring the different ideas that are out there, and not directly tied in with the utility companies? We have how many dams along the rivers to look at. What about the ideas of smart energy they are working on in Colorado? How about the biomass idea that many larger industries and some hospitals are looking at? What I am trying to say is lets not just jump onto this capx idea, when we have so many other options to explore yet. We thought the LaFarge dam project was such a great idea in the 1960's. After millions of dollars and countless families being evicted, the land sit idle for the wildlife. What a waste. Obviously with a little more time and effort spent on that project, we wouldn't of wasted millions of dollars and located many many families for nothing.

I-228-002 | We live in the rural LaCrescent area in which the lines are prosed to possibly pass through. So if we REALLY do need these lines, then **location is another issue.** Recent and future data do not even support the need for this project in the LaCrosse area.

I-228-003 | The proposed line through the LaCrescent area appears quite ridiculas. The lines run along the back of the city across the ridge which will be viewed by everyone below in the city, not to mention the

I-228-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-228-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-228-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

Kessler, Ellen

From: weibergc@visi.com
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2009 4:00 PM
To: scott.ek@state.mn.us
Cc: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 - Aviation Hazard - 1MN8

Dear Mr. Ek,
I am a pilot and resident of Sky Harbor (1MN8) with a significant safety concern over the CapX2020 project.

Our airport serves over 70 aircraft based at the field. We also have significant traffic from guests and/or visitors for local events. Our airport also serves as an emergency landing field 24 hours a day, as it is lighted. All traffic to and from 1MN8 would encounter transmission lines 1/2 mile from the runway end. This presents a serious navigational hazard during take-offs and landings, and would exist within our designated emergency landing area. The risk of collision and loss of life resulting from the CapX2020 transmission line near Sky Harbor Airpark (1MN8) must be taken into serious consideration. The lines cannot safely coexist near any airport. There will be accidents resulting from the height and proximity.

Please accept my comments regarding this projects, and I would encourage you to contact me to discuss the matter in detail.

Sincerely,
Carl F. Weiberg
4370 Canton CT
Webster, MN 55088

phone: 952-652-6123

I-229-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

4322 Chester Ct.
Webster, Mn. 55088
July 17, 2009

Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Spec.
USDA Rural Utilities Sv.
Engineering & Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Av., SW. Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dear Ms. Strength:

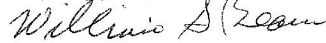
RE: CapX2020 transmission lines relocation proposal

The proposed relocation of CapX2020 transmission lines to 50th St., Webster, Mn. will create a serious problem in air navigation for resident pilots at Sky Harbor Airpark and other fliers such as the National Guard C130s and emergency aircraft. The 50th St. relocation would place the tall transmission lines in the airport traffic pattern—1/2 mile from the end of the runway. This would become a dangerous situation that must be avoided.

Sky Harbor Airpark has been in existence many years and consists of 51 properties all on, or adjacent by taxiway to, a 2800 ft. runway. It is a community of people interested in flying. The transmission lines would be a hazard and seriously interrupt flying activities jeopardizing the purpose of this unique airport community.

The transmission lines should not be constructed along 50th St.

Very truly yours,


William S. Beam

I-230-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

7/19/2009

Ms. Stephanie Strenght

Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff

RE: CAPX 2020 Brookings to Hampton

Dear Ms. Strength,

I have enclosed another copy of a letter I send to Scott Ek, at the Minnesota Office of Energy. If my information is correct there is to be a EIS from Hampton to LaCrosse, Wisc., but not from Brookings to Hampton. This does not make sense to me, why not a Environmental Impact Study on the entire line? Is the Brookings to Hampton less important than the Hampton to LaCrosse. It seems like they are changing routes and adding alternates every week, the more people evolved the more complicated it is becoming, actually I feel the whole project is becoming a real fiasco. I would appreciate any up to date information as to if the whole project is going to have a EIS.

Sincerely,

Duane D. Boyle
3850 W. 50th Street
Webster, Mn. 55088
952-652-4041

I-231-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project is will be available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication. The Brookings County-Hampton 345-kV Project will not be discussed in the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project DEIS.

The Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Information on all of the CapX2020 projects is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

I-231-001

July 19, 2009

Mr. Scott Ek
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Mn. 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Ek:

RE: CAPX 2020-Scoping decision PUC no. ET2/TL-08-1474 A-RIC-003 (Sirek)

Since my last letter to you I had the opportunity to fly over the proposed 50th street new alternate route being considered. I was amazed at the number of farms and residents that have livestock on the 50th street west route. Starting with 50th street west at Elmore there is the Larson dairy farm, directly east is the Coffing organic dairy farm. At 50th street west and city rd 5 is the Horejsi livestock farm, directly east is the Herman horse farm (the Clary Lake Veterinarian Equine rehabilitating horse farm) the Balfany residence horse farm, the Dupay cattle farm, the Hennek livestock farm, the Jones cattle farm, and last the Joe Simon Rodeo horse and bull breeding farm. I can certainly see why all these people are outraged that 50th street should be considered over 57th street which I found not to contain much livestock (mostly hay farmers) if any. I would hope not, but some residents feel that maybe having a couple of (ATF) members living in the 57th street area could have a effect on this proposal. I would be remised if I didn't add into the equation the air park of which the run way ends very close to 50th street west. I do appreciate your time bringing this information to your attention. I will be looking forward to seeing you again sometime in October.

Sincerely,

Duane D. Boyle

3850 W. 50th Street

Webster, Mn. 55088

952-652-4041

cc: Stephanie Strengthen

In addition, the ATF will include:

- Five private citizens, who live, work, or own property on or near the proposed project

The ATF will comprise no more than 20 members.

The OES charges the advisory task force as follows:

1. ATF members will assist the OES in identifying impacts and issues in the area of concern that should be evaluated in the EIS.
2. ATF members will assist the OES in identifying alternative transmission line routes or substation locations in Dakota, Rice, and Scott counties that may maximize positive impacts and minimize or avoid negative impacts of the project in the area of concern.


ATF members are expected to participate with OES staff in up to three meetings and to assist staff with the development of a summary of the task force's work including their preferences, or recommendations, if any. Meetings will be facilitated by OES staff or a facilitator engaged by OES staff.

The Lake Marion to Hampton ATF will expire upon issuance of the EIS scoping decision. ?

OES EFP staff is directed to appoint, as appropriate, members of the ATF and to begin work on the above-noted charge.

Signed this 6th day of March, 2009

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY


William Glahn, Director

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-232-003

I-232-001

I do not think that there is a clear
need for these lines. ARE these lines
serving our AREA? Why can't the
existing lines be updated and used?
Why start new corridors of lines

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: M. Coughlan

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 220

City: Galesville State: WI Zip Code: 54630

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-232-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-232-002

These lines will pass over land that has organic farms. There will be spraying to maintain the lines - that will destroy the land as organic farms.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-232-004

Why have the lines cross over the Mississippi River and then back over it again? Is it necessary to disturb the River with such lines in two different places? It seems that it would be more expensive to build & maintain lines over- through the river. What about the long term care/ cost of lines over the River?

I-232-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts, including those to agricultural resources, resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-232-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-232-004

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

July 16, 2009

Roger and Melinda Holtegaard
Blue Horizon Dairy Farm
1320 75th St. NE
Rochester, MN 55906

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

Re: CapX2020 High Voltage Power Lines Affecting Dairy Farms

We are one of the many dairy families that are extremely concerned about your proposed power lines and the devastating affect they will have on our family, employees and animals.

We have an extensive history on this family farm. We were chosen by the University of MN as "Farm family of the year" as well as hosting "Breakfast on the Farm" for our community. My two oldest daughters have represented Olmsted County and the dairy industry as Dairy Princesses. We are very involved in 4-H and our community. We have 5 children, who have lived and worked on our farm. After graduating from NBSU in Environmental Resource Management, our son, Nathan returned to farm with his dad. Courtney is an oncology nurse (and will begin graduate school this fall as a cancer specialist in nursing) and Portia just graduated with her biology degree (and is currently working on the farm while waiting for future graduate schooling). Annabelle and Marjorie are in high school and work on our farm daily as well.

Now we are told that decisions have been made that will affect our future, our health and our animals. We are concerned that decisions are being made to come through areas where we live and work 24 hours a day. Would you live and work under such conditions? Would you expose your children to such conditions? Your current decision to disregard the health and well-being of an American family farm and people is disturbing. Who will be accountable for the negative financial, health, emotional and physical impact the decision will have on our business?

Please use common sense and use the route where there are no family dairy operations. Roger's father and mother purchased this original farm after he served his time in World War 2. We have continued to live, work and expand this farm, please reconsider your hazardous decisions. With all of the struggles currently facing the American Family Dairy farmer, you should be able to do better for the backbone of this nation! As an elementary school teacher, I encourage my students to be involved and have a say. Let us have a say in such vital matters.

Sincerely,

Roger, Melinda, Courtney, Nathan, Portia, Annabelle and Marjorie Holtegaard

CC: Strength Hillstrom/Xcel Energy, Thompson Dairyland Power, Amy Kloubuchar, Andy Weib, Dept. of Agriculture, State of MN Pollution Control, President Obama, ATFranken

I-233-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-233-002

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-233-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-233-001 and I-233-002.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☒ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? La Crescent, MN & Centerville, WI

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☒ Other: effects on livestock; danger of proximity to steel livestock buildings

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-234-001

Keep poles and wires in right-of-ways along roads and highways not through farm fields. Do through non-cropped land instead of farm land.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-234-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: wood lands

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-234-002

My land is almost entirely tillable. I
do not want poles or lines going through
this prime ground.

My farm is located near the intersection of
I-90 and HWY 76 - Waseo and Pleasant
Hill townships, Winona County, MN.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

My crop land, because its valuable, expensive
productive open land.

I-234-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-234-003

It was all adequately explained, but I'm not buying it all, especially the need for the project. There is also reactions from people East of here that states they don't want this kind of power. They feel before 2020 very green alternatives can be in place.

I-234-004

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Vincent G. Kitching

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 29500 Kassica Road

City: Winona State: MN 55987-6270 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-452-2470

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-234-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-234-004

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

[The page contains faint, illegible markings and bleed-through from the reverse side.]

CONTACT INFORMATION

Representing (Optional): _____

City: Rochester State: MN Zip Code: 55906

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

*Our house is located in the Haverhill township Section 15
Olmsted County Rochester MN 55906*

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

We don't want the B119 proposed site going through our yard. If a new line needs to be ran why isn't the B415 site being utilized.

I-235-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

Mr. Scott Ek
Office of Energy Security and Energy Facility Planning
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

July 15th, 2009

Cc: Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Avenue S.W. Stop 1571
Washington DC 20250-1571

Dear Sirs –

This letter is being written in objection to the proposed reroute / or use of the alternate route published recently for the CapX2020 project. As it understood, the reroute of the CapX2020 Brackling to Hampton line will bring the 200 foot towers within 1/2 mile barrier of Sky Harbor Airpark (1MN8) located in Webster MN. This private/public airport houses over 70 registered aircraft and operates as one of Minnesota largest in terms of aircraft on field aircraft.

The proposed alternate route places these towers Directly into the Published Airport Traffic Pattern of the states largest residential airpark. We as aviators recognize this as both a significant and unacceptable risk to lives by placing these lines in such close proximity to operating aircraft such as Ultra lights, Hot Air Balloons, Light Singles, and other low performance aircraft.

Additionally, it should be noted that per both FAA and Minnesota Regulations, any such development within a the navigable airspace as presented in Federal Aviation Regulations, 14 CFR Part 77 would and does require federal review and review of the existing state and local airspace regulations. As listed in FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5190-4A, Model Zoning Ordinance to Limit Height of Objects Around Airports I believe that the proposed alternate rerouting has not addressed these critical safety issues to navigable airspace around 1MN8, Minnesota Sky Harbor Airport.

It is the purpose of this letter to convey both the danger and the hazard to navigation that these towers would impose upon one of the states largest aircraft bases. On a personal basis, I do not believe this to be in Webster, MN, Rice County, or it's residence best interest and would like to add my official objection to this project.

Respectfully Submitted

Richard & Julie Klepperich

Sky Harbor Airpark
Webster, MN 55088

I-236-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Cochrane Fountain City School

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☒ Other: It will drop the value of my property

I-237-001

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-237-002

This is a recreation area for children and Grand children a great amount of time and money was spent on making trails for their use. My sons also fly RC Airplanes in this area and it will interfere with that also the spraying will be harmful to the abundant variety of wild life

I-237-003

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-237-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-237-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-237-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-237-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Other: Recreation

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

this will drop through some of the best agriculture
land in the area which we must consider for
the future generation.

S17 T21N R12W SE 1/4 quarter

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-237-004

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Joan Auerbeck

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 52073 Co. Rd. N

City: Alma State: WI Zip Code: 54610

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-248-2754

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.